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Message Text

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12
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 AGR-20 AID-20 CEA-02 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 CIEP-02 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01

OMB-01 DRC-01 /192 W
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E.O. 11652: ADS DECLAS 2/26/75
TAGS: ECRP, PFOR, EEC, MT
SUBJ: MALTA NEGOTIATIONS WITH EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

REF: A. EC BRUSSELS 984 B. VALLETTA 191 C. VALLETTA 2120,
OCT 26, 1973

1. OPPOSITION MEMBER MARIO FELICE ASKED PRIME MINISTER
DURING RECENT PARLIAMENTARY SESSION WHAT PROGRESS OR CHANGES
HAD BEEN MADE SINCE PRESENT GOVERNMENT TOOK OFFICE IN RELATIONS
BETWEEN MALTA AND THE COMMON MARKET. P.M.'S PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
WINSTON ABELA REPLIED AS FOLLOWS: "LABOR GOVERNMENT, SOON AFTER
ASSUMING OFFICE OPENED NEGOTIATIONS WITHTHE COMMUNITY TO ADAPT
THE TREATY BETWEEN MALTA AND THE COMMON MARKET BY INCORPORATING
IT IT PROTOCOLS ON ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL COOPERATION AS WELL
AS CONCESSIONS IN FAVOR OF MALTESE PRODUCTS, ESPECIALLY AGRI-
CULTURAL PRODUCTS. FOLLOWING TALKS IN BRUSSELS AND IN MALTA,
THE COMMISSION SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS RECOMMENDATIONS
WHICH INCLUDED A CONSIDERABLE PART OF THE GOM'S PROPOSALS.
THE COUNCIL HAS NOT YET AUTHORIZED THE OPENING OF
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NEGOTIATIONS...NEVERTHELESS, PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON POINTS

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RAISED DURING THE TALKS. FOR INSTANCE, A NUMBER OF
TEXTILE AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS ARE NOW BENEFITING FROM THE
GENERAL PREFERENTIAL TARIFF SYSTEM OF THE COMMON MARKET AND
THESE MALTESE PRODUCTS NO HAVE ACCESS TO THE MARKET OF THE
NINE WITHOUT DUTY OR AT...PREFERENTIAL RATES... IT IS ALSO
WORTH NOTING THAT LAST NOVEMBER THE COMMUNITY GAVE MALTA A GIFT
OF 2,000 TONS OF WHEAT AS A RESULT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION IN
RAISING THIS MATTER DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE TREATY."

2. COMMENT: WHILE ABELA'S REPLY FAILED TO PLACE MALTA'S
RELATIONS TO THE COMMUNITY IN THE CONTEXT OF ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS
WITH ASSOCIATED AND ASSOCIABLE COUNTRIES, THERE IS A GENERAL
AWARENESS IN MALTA THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING FINANCIAL
AID FROM THE EEC MAY BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE CURRENT
INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CRISIS.GETZ

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